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Nihon Keizai Shinbun January 31, 1989

TIMOR GAP Exploitation
Bids will be invited in this year
Nihon Keizai Shinbun met the Minister for Resources of Australia
Joint Project with Indonesia

Australian Minister for Resources, Mr. Peter Cook, met a reporter of Nihon Keizai Shinbun in Tokyo and revealed his prospective concerning the eastern part of Timor Sea known as TIMOR GAP, where the boundary with Indonesian maritime territory is to be determined, saying " At latest within this year necessary conditions will be announced and bids will be able to start."

Both governments have continued to talk about this area for 12 years as there is a political problem in the eastern half of Timor Island. Having allowed to proceed the joint exploitation, this agreement is likely to represent a leading case of resource development in the regions which hold international boundary disputes.

According to Mr. Cook, both governments agreed to divide the area into three zones for development. The zones bordering Indonesia and Australia are subject to the laws of respective countries covering exploration and development, while the tax revenue in each area is to be shared by both governments. As for the central zone, the details are now being negotiated, but will be agreed at the conference held by two countries in the latter 10 days of February, based on international laws.

Mr. cook says he wants to make it an open system in which everyone is able to acquire the right and devide the area into several mining blocks. He will invite the bids both from domestic companies and foreign companies. In this case he says he hopes strongly that Japanese enterprises, too, will participate the bids.

「チモール・ギャップ」開発
年内にも入札開始
インドネシアと共同
豪資源相会見

日経 1989・1・31

オーストラリアのピーター・クック資源相は都内で日本経済新聞記者と会見し、インドネシアとの領海の境界であるチモール海東部地域（チモール・ギャップ）について「遅くとも年内には各種条件を明示し、入札を開始できる」との見通しを明らかにした。

同海域はチモール島東部の政治的問題がからみ、両国間で十二年間にわたり領有権をめぐる交渉が続いてきた。両国が共同開発に具体的なめどを立てたことで、世界各地の国境紛争領域での資源開発のモデルケースとなりそうだ。

クック氏によれば、現在のところ、同海域について、三区域に分けて開発を進めることで両国が合意している。両国に近い二地域はそれぞれの国の法に基づき探鉱・開発し、税収はいずれの地域の物件でも二国間で分ける。中央の地区については詳細を交渉中だが、国際法に従い、二月下旬の二国間会議で詰める見込み。

クック氏は「だれもが権利を取得できるオープンなシステムにしたい」と語り、同海域をいくつかの鉱区に分割し、内外の企業に向け入札する。その場合、「日本企業にもぜひ参加して欲しい」としている。